

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Case No. 13-641

Filed: June 24, 2014

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ETTA NEWMAN

\*

UNPUBLISHED

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Petitioner,

\*

Special Master Gowen

\*

v.

\*

\*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

\*

Attorney's Fees and Costs;

\*

Reasonable Amount Requested to

\*

Which Respondent Does Not Object.

Respondent.

\*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

J. Michael Ranson, Ranson Law Offices, PLLC, Charleston, WV, for petitioner.

Tara Kilfoyle, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

### **ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On September 4, 2013, Etta Newman ("petitioner") filed a petition pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006). The petition alleges that as a result of an influenza vaccine administered to her on September 7, 2011, petitioner suffered pain and loss of function in her right arm and shoulder. Petition at 1, 3, 4. On December 3, 2013, a ruling on entitlement was entered based on respondent's concession.

On June 23, 2014, the parties filed a Stipulation of Facts Concerning Final Attorneys'

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<sup>1</sup> Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned's action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the entire decision will be available to the public. Id.

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties stipulate to an award to petitioner of attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$17,500.00. In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner has not incurred any personal litigation costs in pursuit of this claim.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). Based on the reasonableness of the parties' stipulation, the undersigned **GRANTS** the request for approval and payment of attorney's fees and costs.

Accordingly, an award should be made as follows:

in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and to J. Michael Ranson, of the Ranson Law Offices, PLLC, in the amount of **\$17,500.00**.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Thomas L. Gowen  
Thomas L. Gowen  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.